



### breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 19

#### TITLE

### MISSOURI'S LOCAL EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE: A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

#### TRACK

#### Collaboration/Diversity/Coordination

#### OBJECTIVES

1. The importance of collaboration between state and local partners.
2. The challenges with undertaking tracking efforts at the local level.
3. How tracking can be enhanced by provide technology to local staff.

#### SUMMARY

The Missouri Local Emergency and Environmental Public Health Initiative (LEEPHI) is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and Senior Service's Bio-Terrorism Unit, Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking, and the Missouri Office of Administration's GIS Unit. Through this initiative, Geographic Information System (GIS) software, Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, training, and technical assistance is being provided to participating Local Public Health Agencies throughout the state. In return for participation, each LPHA is required to provide environmental data to both the BT and Tracking programs and participate in field training events.

Since 2002, thirty (30) of Missouri's 115 agencies have joined the program. Through the initiative, a total of fifty-six (56) LPHA staff has received GIS and GPS training. Future plans include continued expansion of the program, the sponsoring of additional field collection exercises, and the development of training classes on best practices for collecting and maintaining data and on data analysis.

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